

fronted Honeyeaters and a few White-eared Honeyeaters were seen feeding on flowers of *G. eriostachya* between 1006 and 1040 hrs.

The local abundance of honeyeaters in Peak Charles National Park and adjacent areas was striking and the number of species coexisting (8) at site 4 was the largest we have observed so far in any one vegetation formation in the South-west. Much of the vegetation in the National Park and environs was regenerating from recent fires and had few bird-pollinated plants in flower. This may have forced the resident honeyeaters to congregate in the small remaining areas of unburnt vegetation in which the above observations were made.

Additional bird species noted in the National Park were: Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*), Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*), Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*C. flabelliformis*), Horsefield's Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx basalus*), Ring-necked Parrot (*Platycercus zonarius*), Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis*), Grey Shrike-thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*), Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), Weebill (*Smicronis brevirostris*), Black-faced Woodswallow (*Artamus cinereus*) and Grey Butcherbird (*Cracticus torquatus*).

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**Birds of Canning Island, Archipelago of the Recherche, Western Australia** - Canning Island (33°55'S., 121°46'E.), off Observatory Point near Esperance, W.A., is recorded by Serventy and Whittell (Birds of Western Australia, 1976) as a breeding station of the Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*). There appears to be no other published information on the bird life of the island. However, Serventy, Serventy and Warham (The Handbook of Australian Seabirds, 1971) list several islands in the Archipelago of the Recherche as seabird breeding islands. On December 2, 1981, accompanied by Mr A.V. Thomas, I spent 1.25 hours on the island, which is about 450 m long (E. to W.) and 250 m wide (N. to S.). Its highest point is 24 m. The soil is mainly firm, fretted granite interspersed with bare granite outcrops. Most of the vegetation consists of short grasses and stunted shrubs with a patch of saltbush-like shrubs to one metre in height on the northern side.

Burrows of White-faced Storm-Petrels (*Pelagodroma marina*) were well-distributed wherever the soil was suitable. Evidence indicated considerable burrow activity. Only eight burrows were checked and four of these were short, due to rock or other obstruction; they were unoccupied. Two others contained a bird incubating an egg, one contained a bird only (an egg, if present, could not be reached) and one contained an egg but no bird. The number of burrows was estimated to be between 2,000 and 3,000.

Three pairs of Sooty Oystercatchers (*Haematopus fuliginosus*) were present and each pair defended separate territories; their young may have been hidden among the rocks. Some fifty Silver Gulls (*Larus novaehollandiae*), including flying young, and some "runners", were noted and several unoccupied nests were found; one nest contained two eggs. A pair of Pacific Gulls (*L. pacificus*) defended a high point but no nest was found. A pair of Caspian Terns had a nest with two eggs.

An Eastern Reef Egret (*Egretta sacra*) and some ten Crested Terns (*Sterna bergii*) were seen on the rocks.

Although no Cape Barren Geese (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*) were seen during the visit, their droppings and tracks were noticed in a number of places, clear evidence of their presence. Other species seen were Rock Parrots (*Neophema petrophila*), common throughout the vegetated areas and also seen among the rocks close to the water, Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*) observed flying about the island and a number at the western end were entering crevices in the rocks, and several Singing Honeyeaters (*Meliphaga virescens*).

Probably the island is rarely visited and appears to have been free from human interference.

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